

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, September 28, 2016**

## **St. Louis County residents invited to public meeting concerning emerald ash borer**

*Public can also weigh in on adoption of a formal quarantine of portion of St. Louis County*

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Residents of St. Louis County are invited to a public meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 regarding the additional discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB) in the county.

On September 13, 2016, the MDA confirmed EAB larvae in several ash trees in the city of Duluth after the department was alerted by a tree care company of a potential infestation.

Those attending the upcoming meetings will have an opportunity to listen to presentations on EAB, hear about local options to deal with the insect, and learn how residents can limit the spread of the bug. Experts from the MDA, University of Minnesota, and other state and federal partner agencies will be available to answer questions.

### **Emerald Ash Borer Informational Meeting**

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Rice Lake City Hall

4107 W. Beyer Road

Duluth, MN 55803

The public will also have an opportunity to provide input on the adoption of a formal EAB quarantine of a portion of St. Louis County. An emergency quarantine was placed on the southeastern corner of the county when EAB was discovered. EAB quarantine limits the movement of firewood and ash material out of the quarantined area of the county. This will reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect.

The MDA will take comments on the formal quarantine through November 30, 2016, and proposes to adopt the quarantine on December 15, 2016. The quarantine limits the movement of ash trees and limbs, and hardwood firewood out of the southeastern portion of the county. The proposed quarantine language can be found at [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab). Comments can be made at the public meetings or by contacting:

Kimberly Thielen Cremers

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

625 Robert Street North

St. Paul, MN 55155

[kimberly.tcremers@state.mn.us](mailto:kimberly.tcremers@state.mn.us)

Fax: 651-201-6108

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Minnesota is highly susceptible to the destruction caused by invasive insect. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation. For more information on emerald ash borer, go to [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab).

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Allen Sommerfeld, MDA Communications

651-201-6185 / [allen.sommerfeld@state.mn.us](mailto:allen.sommerfeld@state.mn.us)

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